

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 01548 060947Z

41

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /073 W

----- 023425

R 060704Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3344

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1548

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SO

SUBJECT: FUTURE OF FOREIGN SECRETARY OMAR ARTEH

1. ARAB COLLEAGUES HERE TELL US THAT SOMALI FONSEC OMAR ARTEH IS NOW ACTIVE CANDIDATE FOR POST OF SECRETARY GENERAL OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE. ARTEH'S CANDIDACY HAS SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT SIAD, WHO INCLUDED IN HIS OCTOBER 20 STATEMENT TO NATION (MOGADISCIO 1480) BRIEF COMMENT ON SOMALI TIES TO ISLAMIC CONFERENCE IN FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENT IN AN UNUSUAL ASIDE.

2. ARAB DIPLOMATS HERE SEE ARTEH'S CANDIDACY AS EXPEDIENT FACE-SAVING DEVICE BOTH FOR ARTEH AND SIAD. SIAD'S DISMISSAL OF ARTEH -- WHICH SIAD EVIDENTLY HAS BEEN CONSIDERING FOR SOME TIME -- WOULD BE ILL-RECEIVED BY SOME ARAB CAPITALS, WHERE ARTEH IS RESPECTED AND TRUSTED AS ONLY MAN OF CONSEQUENCE IN SIAD GOVERNMENT WHO IS SINCERELY AND GENUINELY PRO-ARAB. ARTEH'S LATERAL MOVE TO ISLAMIC CONFERENCE POSITION AT SAME TIME WOULD ENABLE ARTEH TO CONTINUE TO WORK FOR SOMALIA'S INTERESTS AND HIS OWN AMBITIONS.

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PAGE 02 MOGADI 01548 060947Z

3. ISLAMIC CONFERENCE ELECTION IS PROBABLY FINAL TEST OF ARTEH'S

USEFULNESS TO SIAD AND PERHAPS HIS STATUS AMONG MOSLEM COUNTRIES.
IF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE REJECTS HIM, IT WILL BE THAT MUCH EASIER
FOR SIAD TO REPLACE HIM IN MOGADISCIO, WHERE IT IS GENERALLY
BELIEVED THAT HIS UTILITY -- WITHIN SIAD GOVERNMENT AND IN FOREIGN
MINISTRY -- HAS COME TO AN END AND THAT SIAD IS ANXIOUS TO REPLACE
HIM.
LOUGHRAN

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